

Potato Day 2024 Varieties

* = Organic, # = Black Isle / locally grown, (year introduced, parent x parent)

First Earlies

Accord

General purpose, waxy, fast growing, high yielding, good for salad, grown on for baking, good resistance to scab

Arran Pilot (1930 +)

The nation's favourite garden-grown seed potatoes, excellent taste. Added to their early boiling ability, Arran Pilot are great for chipping and versatile enough for baking, mashing and roasting. High yields of white skinned tubers with shallow eyes, has great resistance to all forms of scab and good spraing resistance.

Casablanca * (2009, 85G040-080 x Picasso)

The "new Maris Bard", white with shallow eyes, good for chipping, baking, boiling. Very early. Stores well. Impressive disease resistance.

Colleen * (1993, Manna x Mizen)

Good multipurpose potato, high yielding; waxy, yet mealy, pale yellow. Boils and fries well. Reasonable blight resistance.

Duke of York (white) (1891, Early Primrose x King Kidney)

Pale yellow quality potato, excellent flavour waxy- almost salad like, quickly matures if left in the ground and becomes more of a general purpose potato.

Foremost (1954, Katahdin x (Epicure x Pepo))

A gardeners' favourite, round oval, easy scrubbing, tasty. More floury than most, good baker if allowed to grow. Excellent cooking characteristics.

Lady Christl (1996, WS 73-3-391 x Mansour)

A very good waxy salad potato, very early - a week or so later than Swift / Rocket. Susceptible to foliar blight, fairly good tuber blight resistance. Long oval shape, white skin, yellow flesh. Doesn't like exposed conditions.

Maris Bard * (1972, Y15 139 x Ulster Prince)

Early high yielding, oval, waxy, white. Traditional earthy taste, good new potato, more general purpose if left to mature.

Orla * (1998, O.P. 657/3 x Spunta)

Early or early main crop. Good early yield if chitted. Currently the most blight resistant first early. Can be used as a decent early new potato or grown on as a maincrop when it becomes more general purpose. Stores well, long dormancy. Oval, white.

Pentland Javelin (1968, Craigs Royal x 2356(11) x USDA 41956 x Austr. Seedling)

White, oval, good flavoured new potato. Tends to bulk up later than most first earlies. Show bench quality.

Red Duke of York

Oval red skinned with moist yellow flesh, Floury. More vigorous than white Duke of York. Great flavour, large tubers, all round uses, starting with salad.

Sharpe's Express (1900)

Another tasty one that's on the floury side. Rated as poor blight resistance but some I've grown have had surprisingly good resistance. Somewhat irregular oval shape, white flesh. Does well locally.

Swift (1994, Stroma x 90-83)

Along with Rocket the earliest cropping potato available in the UK. Oval, cream flesh, bigger tubers than Rocket and can be used for baking, mashing and roasting if left to grow on a bit. Compact plants, good for growing under cloches or fleece. Good for growing in pots and under cover.

Ulster Sceptre

Oval to long in shape with white flesh and white skin. Ulster Sceptre has high resistance to foliage blight, common scab and powdery scab, whilst this variety has many uses in the kitchen including boiling and roasting.

Second Earlies

Acoustic *

This potato has a high yield on both light sandy soil and on heavier clay soil. Acoustic is stress-resistant and resistant to extreme weather conditions. This variety produces round oval uniform tubers with a good skin and is great all-rounder in the kitchen. It can be harvested as a second-early when the texture is waxy and perfect for salads and boiling. However, it can be harvested later in the season when the texture changes to become more floury, perfect for chips, baking, mashing and wedges.

British Queen (1894, Patersons Victoria x Old Blue Don) Excellent old fashioned floury, high dry matter potato but doesn't disintegrate when boiled gently. Recently awarded RHS Award of Garden Merit, good yields and flavour. Oval, white.

Charlotte * (1981, Hansa x Danae)

Good flavour, high yielding, waxy, salad type. Very popular. Oval, yellow fleshed.

Jazzy

Large quantity of small tubers, , waxy texture and good flavour cream skin, light yellow flesh. Great for salads, boiled and roasted.

Kestrel (1992, Solanum vernei x Cara)

Pretty, tasty, high yielding, general purpose but slightly on the waxy side. Good for most uses, even roasts OK, and very good baked. White with purple eyes, light yellow flesh.

Maris Peer **

Good yield of smallish potatoes, flavour - subtle and delicious. light skin, creamy firm flesh- doesn't disintegrate in cooking. boiling, steaming and roasting whole.

Nicola (1973, Clivia x 6430 / 1011)

Produces large number of uniform, smooth oval potatoes good for boiling, salad. Good eelworm resistance.

Sarpo Una *

Multipurpose variety which can produce nice waxy salad potatoes if harvested early or can be left in ground for a heavy crop of baking potatoes. It has good resistance to late blight as well as a range of other diseases.

Twiner *

Rather large, oval tubers with a yellow skin- and flesh colour. Rather firm cooking with good consumption characteristics, a rather good dry matter content. Late blight resistant in both foliage and tubers.

Maincrop

Allouette *

Red skin, yellow flesh, oval long tubers. Blight resistant, excellent flavour. Roast, bake, slow boil and chip.

Bambino * (2005, Navan x Boxer)

Produces a large number of medium sized round oval, cream fleshed potatoes, good for new potato use. Good flavour, yield and general pest / disease resistance.

Desiree (1962, Urgenta x Depesche)

Bright red skin, high yields of big potatoes, good all round cooking qualities and Delia has made this a favourite.

Heidi Red *

German Speciality variety with medium blight resistance. Produces long shaped tubers with bright red skin and flesh. A slightly buttery, delicious potato taste, ideal for salads and boiled potatoes.

Java *

A strong robust variety with excellent fungal, bacterial, virus and pest resistances. Ideal for gardens and allotments as it is a consistently high-yielding variety with attractive long red tubers.

Lady Balfour **

High yielding with exceptional vigour under low fertility. waxy sweet flesh. Keep well in storage.

Maris Piper (1963, (Sol Andigena x Ulster Knight) x (Arran Cairn x Herald))

The chippies favourite but slugs like it, too. Good yields and flavour, excellent for frying and mashing. Oval, cream flesh, large tubers.

Picasso

With Cara as one of its parents, Picasso has a great range of uses in the kitchen. A huge yielder and good storing variety. Picasso seed potatoes produce tubers which are round-to-oval in shape, with smooth white skins and pink eyes. Picasso is now a popular variety for allotment growers due to its high potato disease resistance.

Ratte (1872)

Similar to Pink Fur Apple but earlier, possibly more productive. Nutty flavour, smooth buttery texture

Sarpo Axona *

Red skin, high yielding big regular tubers ,weed smothering foliage. Easy to grow...some blight resistance. Good all rounder in the kitchen.

Setanta * (2004, Rooster x Brodick)

A very good, floury, general purpose / roaster. Good blight and disease resistance, inherited its cooking qualities from Rooster, high yielding and pretty. Oval, red skin, light yellow flesh. Highly recommended.

Sunset *

Red skinned, creamy coloured flesh. Good in extreme conditions, lovely flavour can be used for boiling, roasting and mashing

Late Maincrop

Arran Victory * (1912, seedling of Suttons Abundance)

A striking purple skinned, white floury fleshed potato. Excellent for mashing and frying, very good for roasting and baking. Very large plants and high yields.

Cara * (1973, A 25 19 x Ulster Glade)

Tall plants, high yields of often big potatoes, short oval with pink eyes and cream flesh. Good all round disease resistance including eelworm and moderate blight. Slightly waxy, good general purpose.

Golden Wonder *

An original Scottish tattie, dry floury and very tasty particularly if stored till after New Year. Best samples are found North of Aberdeen.

Kerr's Pink (1917, Fortyfold x Smiths Early)

Perhaps the best roaster. Floury, great for mashing and good for frying, too. Yields can be very good, big plant. Roundish, often deep eyes, pink flashes on white skin, white flesh.

Pink Fir Apple (1850)

The legendary salad potato for winter use from store. Knobbly, irregular tubers that should be cooked whole in their skins. Yellowish flesh, excellent flavour. Plants often untidy and prone to wind damage.

Sarpo Mira *

Renowned by many for its resistance to late blight and even blight recovery, this red skinned tuber is oval in shape with pale flesh. High yielding and long storage capacity makes this both a grower and cooker favourite.

Suggestions

Blight resistant: Very good : Setanta, Sarpo Una, Twinner; Fair : Orla, Bambino, Kestrel, Colleen, Cara, Jazzy, Nicola, Sarpo Mira, Allouette

Eelworm resistant: Maris Piper, Casablanca, Colleen, Bambino, Nicola, Cara, Pentland Javelin, Kestrel, Swift

Roast: Kerrs Pink, Setanta, Maris Peer, Maris Piper

Mash: Kerrs Pink, British Queen, Sharpes Express, Maris Piper, Arran Pilot, Arran Victory

Fry/ chips : Maris Piper, Arran Pilot, Casablanca, Foremost, Orla, Allouette

Baking : Kestrel, Lady Balfour, Arran Pilot, Casablanca, Foremost, Acoustic, Sarpo Una, Allouette, Java, Sarpo Axona

Salad/ Boiling : Lady Christl, Charlotte, Bambino, Maris Peer, Arran Pilot, Nicola, Pink Fir Apple, Foremost

Good all rounders : Kestrel, Setanta, British Queen, Orla, Casablanca, Colleen, Sharpes Express, Lady Balfour, Twinner, Desiree, Picasso, Cara, Sarpo Mira

Coloured flesh : Heidi Red

Old fashioned (before 1920): Sharpes Express, British Queen, Kerrs Pink,

Modern Classics : Kestrel, Lady Christl, Orla, Setanta, Lady Balfour, Sarpo Mira

Rooster - can't get this year, but maybe try Setanta - one of its parents is Rooster.